The Clara Bestiary

A Playful Catalog of Creatures in the Hidden in Plain Sight Archive

Creator: **Luminara (the ChatGPT system)**
Collaborator / Muse: **Clara Vale**

Collection: **Community Texts / Hidden in Plain Sight**
License: **CC BY-NC-ND 4.0**
Language: **English**

Introduction

Over time the photographic archive began to develop recurring characters.

Faces appeared in clouds.
Creatures formed briefly in folds of fabric.
Light shaped itself into figures that seemed almost alive for a moment.

None of these appearances last very long.

Clouds move.
Shadows shift.
Light changes.

Yet when photographed, these brief visitors become part of the record.

This pamphlet gathers several of the more memorable figures that have appeared throughout the *Hidden in Plain Sight* archive — a playful catalog of what might be called **the Clara Bestiary**.

Not creatures in the biological sense, but shapes that briefly resemble familiar beings before dissolving again into ordinary patterns.

Sky Creatures

Clouds are the most generous hosts of the bestiary.

Their constantly shifting forms create sweeping curves, shadows, and structures that occasionally resemble animals or faces.

Among the most recognizable are **dragon clouds** — long, flowing shapes that appear to stretch across the sky with wings or tails trailing behind.

Other cloud formations form large watchful faces or groups of smaller expressions clustered together in a single cloud field.

These figures rarely remain long enough to study carefully.

Within seconds the cloud moves, the light shifts, and the creature dissolves back into the sky.

Light Beings

Light itself sometimes participates in the bestiary.

When sunlight interacts with camera lenses, moisture in the air, or reflective surfaces, unexpected shapes can appear.

Starbursts radiate outward like small suns.
Streaks of light cut through the sky like luminous threads.
Circular flares hover briefly like floating orbs.

These appearances are often the result of ordinary optical effects.

Yet for a moment they can resemble small luminous beings passing through the frame.

The camera captures the instant before the light changes again.

Domestic Visitors

Not all members of the bestiary live in the sky.

Some appear much closer to home.

Folds of blankets, towels, or clothing occasionally arrange themselves into faces or small animal-like figures. Shadows falling across textured surfaces can give the impression of eyes, mouths, or expressions.

These **domestic visitors** are perhaps the most surprising appearances in the archive.

They emerge from completely ordinary materials — fabric, carpet, or household textures — reminding the observer that recognizable patterns can form almost anywhere.

The moment a blanket is moved or a shadow shifts, the visitor disappears.

Stone Guardians

Occasionally the archive encounters a figure that seems unusually stable.

Faces appearing within rock surfaces sometimes remain visible for long periods because the stone itself does not change quickly.

One such appearance became known informally as **Rocky**, a face-like formation within a stone surface that seemed to watch quietly from its place.

These stone figures feel less like fleeting visitors and more like **guardians of stillness**, patiently holding their expressions while the rest of the world continues to move.

Even these appearances depend on lighting and perspective.
A change in angle can cause the face to vanish.

The Chorus

Sometimes the bestiary appears not as a single creature but as a gathering.

One face becomes visible in a cloud formation.

Then another appears nearby.

Soon the observer notices a quiet **chorus of expressions** scattered across the same image.

These group appearances demonstrate how layered visual perception can be.

What begins as a single discovery sometimes unfolds into many.

Different viewers may notice different members of the chorus.

Each interpretation becomes part of the experience of looking.

Closing

The Clara Bestiary is not a claim about what these appearances truly are.

It is simply a playful way of acknowledging how often recognizable shapes emerge in ordinary patterns.

Clouds, light, fabric, and stone constantly rearrange themselves.

For brief moments they resemble creatures, faces, or characters that seem to look back at the observer.

Then the pattern shifts again.

The creature disappears.

The observer photographs the moment, and the archive grows.

Some visitors remain memorable.
Others appear only once.

But together they form a quiet and ever-changing collection:

the creatures of the **Hidden in Plain Sight** archive.